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Technical co-operation among developing countries

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INFORMATION FROM SOME GOVERNMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present document has been prepared in line with decision 6/2 of the High-level Committee regarding information on progress achieved in TCDC activities of Governments and intergovernmental organizations. The report is based on the submissions received from Governments and intergovernmental organizations with regard to TCDC policy and related matters, promotional and operational TCDC activities in addition to financial arrangements. The report summarizes noticeable trends in the period under review and ends with the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The review of TCDC activities of Governments and intergovernmental organizations has become a regular feature of the High-level Committee since its second session in October 1981. In its decision 6/2, the Committee voiced concern over the paucity of detailed information available from many Governments of developing countries and from international organizations concerning their activities in the area of TCDC. UNDP requested the Governments of 178 member countries and territories, including 23 developed countries in addition to 80 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to provide the required information through a questionnaire. By 31 March 1991, responses were received from Governments of 42 countries and territories, including 39 from developing countries and 3 from developed countries. Twenty responses were received from IGOs. Out of the 39 responding developing countries, 8 have indicated that no TCDC activities were undertaken during the period under review.

2. Not all responses conformed to the suggested format, and some were received incomplete. Therefore the overall assessment of responses does not attempt to portray a comprehensive record of the progress made by Governments and IGOs in the promotion and implementation of TCDC. However, some general patterns and trends could be noted, with examples of specific activities indicating progress made thus far.

3. This report provides an overview of the various activities undertaken by Governments and IGOs in strengthening their TCDC focal point mechanisms and capacities, also their promotional and operational activities, and financial arrangements. It then summarizes noticeable trends, and ends with the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations for future action.

I. OVERVIEW

4. For the period under review 1988-1990, the Governments of developing countries were requested to provide information concerning changes in TCDC policies and mechanisms covering focal point mechanisms and budgetary allocations for TCDC on bilateral and multilateral arrangements made on a TCDC basis. The Governments were also requested to report on promotional and operational activities undertaken. Governments of developed countries were mainly asked to report on changes in policies and financial support for TCDC. The questions posed to intergovernmental organizations were aimed at obtaining information on changes in legislation and policy levels of financial support for TCDC activities of developing countries.

A. Developing countries

1. TCDC mechanisms and capacities

5. During the period 1988-1990, most countries reported maintaining their focal points as part of their overall planning machinery. This was cited, for example, by Bangladesh, Cyprus, Pakistan, Panama, Togo and Uganda. However, the United Republic of Tanzania reported changing its national coordinating mechanism in March 1990 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Planning Commission in the office of the Prime Minister with the Planning Divisions of the sectoral ministries and departments remaining as sectoral focal points. Thailand reported maintaining its focal point within the office of the Prime Minister. The Governments of Colombia, Ethiopia and Mexico reported having their focal points within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chile reported the establishment of the agency for international cooperation as the TCDC focal point in March 1990.

6. Addressing national and sectoral budget allocations for TCDC over the reporting period, Governments varied in their approaches, some indicating annual amounts contributed from the national budget, with others listing allocations for specific projects. Thailand indicated the allocation of 26,075,900 baht ($1,043,036) from the national budget to its Thai International Cooperation Programme over the period 1 October 1988 to 30 September 1989. This sum was reported to have been increased to 28,321,332 baht ($1,132,853) for the October 1989-September 1990 period. The United Republic of Tanzania's annual budget for TCDC is reported to have been increased from 4.5 million Tanzanian shillings in 1989-1990 to 5.6 million Tanzanian shillings for 1990-1991. Uganda reported an annual TCDC budget allocation of $US 456,000. Venezuela registered an increase in its TCDC financing from 598,150 bolivares in 1989 to 846,000 bolivares in 1990. Jamaica reported an allocation of 100,000 Jamaican dollars from its fourth cycle IPF for support of TCDC activities; and an additional allocation of 152,000 Jamaican dollars over the period 1988-1991 for technical assistance to other countries. Turkey reported a total allocation of approximately $7.6 million for TCDC activities and programmes. Both Bolivia and Honduras reported that while no allocations are made from their national budgets for TCDC activities, local cost components of such activities are made from individual budgets of cooperating institutions. Yugoslavia reported that TCDC activities undertaken during the reporting period were primarily financed from the national budget. Such financing was reported to have reached the level of $10 million for the period 1988-1990.

7. Most countries indicated having bilateral and multilateral TCDC agreements with other countries. New bilateral agreements during the reporting period were made by the Government of Thailand with the Governments of India, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal and Turkey; by the Governments of India and Pakistan; and by the Government of Venezuela with the Governments of Argentina, Chile and Czechoslovakia. Mexico reported bilateral agreements with Governments in Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), Afghanistan also indicated agreements with Governments in its own region (Bangladesh, India, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Turkey) and Uganda cited regional

agreements with the Governments of Brazil, China, Egypt and Yugoslavia. The Government of Paraguay reported entering into agreements with the Governments of Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela. Sri Lanka reported bilateral agreements with China involving training in the fields of agriculture and farming mechanization, quality control and standardization in rubber goods production and the exchange of technology in the manufacturing of tea. Turkey reported specific bilateral TCDC agreements with Botswana, Chad, the Gambia and the Sudan in addition to general bilateral agreements with 16 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Arab and Eastern European States embodying TCDC elements. Zambia reported bilateral agreements with Iran, Korea and Spain. Chile reported TCDC agreements with Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela in addition to a continuation of previous cooperation with China. Bolivia reported a cooperation agreement with Ecuador, and Honduras reported a cooperation agreement with Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela. Yugoslavia reported concluding bilateral agreements with a number of developing countries. Chad reported cooperation agreements with Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Turkey.

2. Promotional activities

8. Most Governments reported carrying out promotional TCDC activities at all levels, bilateral, regional and global, principally of the following types:

(a) Identification of TCDC capacities and needs by a country and, in turn, disseminating the information to potential partner countries;

(b) Missions, studies and surveys carried out to identify TCDC possibilities and/or the preparation of specific projects;

(c) Participation in regional or interregional meetings and consultations organized to promote TCDC.

9. Country reports indicated that during the current reporting period capacities and needs surveys were carried out by the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela. Some countries reported completing and disseminating such surveys to other interested Governments during the previous reporting period. Thailand has advised of updating its capacities and needs compendium for the period 1991-1993. Sri Lanka reported identification of training needs of government departments on an annual basis. Training needs/capacities in the coconut sector were surveyed in preparation for the Asia and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) TCDC programming exercise in Indonesia. Jamaica reported conducting a survey of capacities/needs in preparation for its national TCDC modality workshop. Turkey reported conducting a survey of identifying Turkish technical cooperation capacities in preparation for the first ministerial meeting on technical cooperation among the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Zambia reported completing a survey of capacities and needs for possible dissemination to other interested partners. Bolivia and Ecuador have reported undertaking a joint survey of capacities and needs in a number of sectors including mining, industry, health and agriculture.

10. The Governments of Afghanistan, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Paraguay and Venezuela have all reported undertaking mission studies to identify specific TCDC prospects preliminary to establishing links with other developing countries as preparation for TCDC programming exercises. Ecuador reported missions to Venezuela, Cuba and Mexico aiming at identification of potential areas of cooperation. Chad reported undertaking capacities identification in preparation for the first ministerial meeting on technical cooperation among OIC member States.

11. Participation in regional or interregional meetings and consultations organized to promote TCDC was reported on by most countries. These were either regular meetings of regional organizations of which the countries are members, or intergovernmental TCDC programming exercises. Uganda reported that its participation in the United Republic of Tanzania and Ghana TCDC programming exercises resulted in approximately 20 TCDC project agreements being negotiated and finalized with 6 countries (Brazil, China, Egypt, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia). The United Republic of Tanzania reported that during the TCDC programming exercise hosted by it in 1989, TCDC project proposals totalling 221 were agreed upon by Tanzanian institutions and corresponding institutions of 18 participating developing countries. The United Republic of Tanzania also reported that 13 project proposals had been finalized with the Government of Indonesia and 5 were agreed to with the Government of Ghana during programming exercises in those countries. Sierra Leone reported agreement on four projects during the Ghana TCDC programming exercise involving training of government officials in Ghana. The Government of Venezuela reported participating in many meetings within the Latin American region in 1988 and 1989. Jamaica reported participation in TCDC programming in aquaculture and maritime activities and also in China's programming exercise in 1986. The Government of Turkey reported participation in the United Republic of Tanzania and Indonesia TCDC programming exercises. In addition, Turkey also reported on hosting the first meeting of focal points of technical cooperation among OIC member States and the first ministerial meeting on technical cooperation among OIC member countries. The Government of Zambia reported participation in TCDC workshops in Malawi and the TCDC programming of the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. Operational activities

12. Operational TCDC activities have been divided into three categories:

(a) Experts received from, and training obtained in, other developing countries;

(b) Equipment received; and

(c) Joint research and development projects.

13. The statistical data provided indicate that more than 700 experts were exchanged over more than 65 TCDC activities between cooperating countries. Experts were received by the Government of Afghanistan from India, by the Government of Uganda from Egypt, by the Government of Mexico from some Central American countries and by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania from Turkey and Ghana. Experts were sent by the Government of Tunisia to Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Oman, Thailand, Turkey and Yemen, and by the Government of Thailand to over 45 countries in Asia, the Arab States, Africa and Latin America. Turkey reported sending 29 Turkish experts to 11 developing countries in Asia and Africa in a number of fields including post-harvest technology, statistics and manpower development. Turkey also reported receiving three Chinese experts in acupuncture. The Government of Mauritius reported receiving 92 experts from China, Egypt and India. Bolivia reported receiving experts from Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela and sending one expert to Paraguay.

14. Over the reporting period, the statistical data provided by the Governments indicate that more than 230 training activities were undertaken. Training was provided to Viet Nam by the Governments of Indonesia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Afghanistan by the Government of India, to various developing countries by the Government of Cyprus, to Ethiopia by the Governments of Egypt, Indonesia and Yemen, and by the Government of Tunisia to officials from Mauritania and Mali. Training was also provided to Nepal and Yemen by the Government of Pakistan, and to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania by China, Ghana, Indonesia, Thailand and Turkey. Turkey reported providing training to 37 persons from 29 developing countries in different fields including textile and leather technologies, water resources and highway engineering. Turkey also fielded trainees to Indonesia, Egypt and Malaysia. Zambia reported sending trainers to Cuba, Egypt, and Malawi in irrigation and economics. Bolivia reported sending 10 trainees to Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela.

15. Afghanistan reported having received teaching materials, hospital equipment and spare parts from India. Yugoslavia reported providing equipment totalling $US 7.7 million to seven African developing countries.

16. TCDC Joint Development Undertakings were reported on by nine Governments. Such undertakings ranged from microhydro-power generation, small industries and public health, to research and development of coffee and tea production. The focus of these activities was on human resources development through the provision of experts and training by one country to another. Zambia reported a joint research programme with Cuba on utilization of sugar bagasse.

B. Developed countries

17. The Government of Germany accords a high priority to TCDC within the framework of its development assistance programmes on both a bilateral and multilateral basis. Germany reported the provision of about

110 million deutsche mark for projects involving TCDC for the period 1988-1990. This reflects an increase of 150 per cent compared to the preceding reporting period 1986-1988. The Government of Finland indicated that its development assistance programmes embody and encourage TCDC specially in projects involving training. Stating its firm belief that TCDC should be promoted and supported, the Government of Austria reported that it regards the essential impulse for TCDC as necessarily originating in the developing countries themselves. Austria stated its participation in regional infrastructural programmes indicating increasing interest in supporting these activities.

C. Intergovernmental organizations

18. The responding intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) belonged to the following broad categories:

(a) Funding organizations including regional development banks and regional funds;

(b) Research and training organizations;

(c) Broader intergovernmental groupings with technical, economic and political objectives.

1. Policy and administrative measures

19. All IGOs listed the promotion of TCDC concepts as the impetus for their existence and ongoing concerns. Of the funding organizations, the Arab Monetary Fund reported supporting 57 TCDC activities during the reporting period. The technical assistance rendered to member States included the exchange of experts on all aspects of capital market development, inter-Arab trade promotion, and training in central banking, public finance and macroeconomic management.

20. The African Development Bank initiated a group of concrete actions to promote TCDC concepts among African countries including provision of loans to subregional institutions to finance common investment programmes, and developing projects situated in one country using the outputs of goods and services from other developing countries. The Asian Development Bank facilitated the exchange of experts under its technical assistance and loan-financed projects, in addition to facilitating provision of equipment/supplies among developing member countries under bank-financed operations. The Islamic Development Bank indicated that its Unit responsible for technical cooperation among the Bank's member countries participated in the TCDC exercises in Egypt, Indonesia and Pakistan.

21. The Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries organized the first meeting of national Training Centre focal points of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in March 1990 as a preparatory meeting for the first ministerial meeting on the subject, held in October 1990. The Centre also reported on an ongoing survey for identification of capacities and needs of OIC member States. The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development supported the Islamic Academy of Sciences by co-sponsoring annual conferences in 1989 and 1990 on technology and development. The organization also participated at meetings on technical cooperation and conducted conferences, workshops, training and exchange of experts in favour of Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates. The International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE) reported putting together a feasibility report on development of cooperative arrangements among developing countries in the consultancy and engineering field. ICPE also reported the institution of a one-year post-graduate Master of Business Administration programme in public enterprise management. The South Centre reported creating a two-year follow-up mechanism to promote and implement the findings and recommendations of the South Commission report on the importance of South-South cooperation. The Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE) conducted 42 activities in 25 countries concerning technical cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries in the energy sector. The Forum Secretariat reported pooling resources among its member Governments in the area of trade, energy, telecommunication, maritime activities and civil aviation.

22. Broader intergovernmental groupings reporting on their activities included the Commission of the European Communities, which reported providing TCDC experts to countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific which are signatories of the Lomé III Convention for the years 1988-1990. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development reported implementing three projects during the reporting period, financed by UNDP through training and the sharing of experience in the participating countries, and the strengthening of agriculture research management in the Arab countries. The Latin American Economic System (SELA) reported organizing a TCDC programming meeting on aquaculture in June 1989 with UNDP assistance. The organization also indicated support for a research project on artificial insemination and embryo transfers in cattle involving 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. Financial support to multilateral organizations

23. Intergovernmental organizations were asked to indicate financial support to any interregional groupings supporting TCDC. In this regard, the Arab Monetary Fund reported contributing $250 million to the Arab Trade Funding Program. The Forum Secretariat also reported the institution of a fellowship programme in conjunction with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) aimed at providing short-term training in ASEAN countries to nationals of forum island countries with an annual budget of $27,000. The Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Organizations (AGFUND) reported provision of financial assistance during the period 1988-1990 to a number of United Nations

development system agencies and organizations in addition to an inter-Arab organization (the Arab Council for Childhood and Development).

3. Support of specific TCDC promotional activities

24. On the question of support of specific TCDC promotional and operational activities, the Asian Development Bank reported providing expert/consultancy services through both its technical assistance and loan operations in favour of developing member countries from other member developing countries totalling $57,590,000. Procurement of goods, equipment and related services supplied by member developing countries to other member countries totalled $US 3,159,839 during the same period. The Islamic Development Bank also reported support for 22 activities facilitating exchange of experts and placement of trainees among its member countries totalling $156,000. AGFUND indicated support to institution building, networking, and information exchange in 21 Arab countries, 3 African countries, 2 Latin American countries and 7 Asian countries. The Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) reported supporting sectoral TCDC focal points in the fields of water resources, social sciences and rangeland management. ACSAD also organized 21 training courses and workshops in its field of operation and supported the exchange of information and research. The Commonwealth Secretariat reported that more than half of the experts sent within the framework of the activities of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation were from developing countries.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

25. The information available reflects the continued efforts of many developing countries and intergovernmental organizations in undertaking and supporting TCDC. Developing countries that have provided information give the indication that the use of TCDC as an instrument in meeting their technical cooperation needs is on the increase, taking the form of bilateral agreements and joint development undertakings. It is felt that through strengthening such arrangements, TCDC will become an integral part of the process of socio-economic development.

26. The level of information received, as reflected in the quantity and quality of responses, continues to be a cause for concern over the capacity of Governments and intergovernmental organizations to gather and report information on their TCDC activities. In this respect, governments and intergovernmental organizations are urged to seriously consider developing and enhancing their capacities to collect and disseminate information on their TCDC activities in order to enhance the level of appreciation of TCDC as a development tool.

27. There are indications of continuing efforts to strengthen national TCDC coordination mechanisms in several developing countries; also of some efforts to review the most appropriate location for the national focal point within

the government machinery to ensure optimum effectiveness. Governments of developing countries which may deem it desirable to review the effectiveness of their TCDC focal point mechanism may wish to seek the experiences of other developing countries, if required, with catalytic support from the Special Unit for TCDC.

28. Allocation of financial resources for TCDC including the use of IPFs still appears to require more efforts on the part of developing countries. Developing countries are therefore urged to respond to previous decisions of the High-level Committee addressing the question of financial allocations for TCDC.

29. The level of participation of women in various TCDC activities as reflected in the statistical data provided by some developing countries reflects a trend in those countries to involve women in such activities. Another report before the Committee deals extensively with this subject. 1/

Notes

1/ TCDC/7/5.

Annex I

LIST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT PROVIDED INFORMATION

A. Developing countries and territories

AFRICA	ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	ARAB STATES AND EUROPE
Chad	Afghanistan	Bolivia	Bahrain
Ethiopia	Bangladesh	Chile	Cyprus
Gabon	Indonesia	Colombia	Lebanon
Mauritius	Kiribati	Ecuador	Oman
Sao Tome and Principe	Mongolia	Honduras	Tunisia
Senegal	Nepal	Jamaica	Turkey
Sierra Leone	Pakistan	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Swaziland	Sri Lanka	Panama	Yugoslavia
United Republic of Tanzania	Thailand	Paraguay	
Togo		Uruguay	
Uganda		Venezuela	
Zaire			
Zambia			

B. Developed countries

Austria
Finland
Germany

Annex II

LIST OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED INFORMATION

African Development Bank

Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands

Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Organizations

Arab Monetary Fund

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Asian Development Bank

Commission of the European Communities

Commonwealth Secretariat

Forum Secretariat

Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública

Inter-American Development Bank

Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries

Islamic Development Bank

Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development

Latin American Economic System

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organización Latinoamericana de Energía

Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel

South Centre

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat

Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

INFORMATION FROM SOME GOVERNMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report by the Administrator

Corrigendum

Paragraph 5

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

Guatemala reported that since June 1990, the national TCDC focal point was located in the new Vice Ministry General for multilateral international cooperation.

Paragraph 7

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

The Government of Guatemala reported its bilateral TCDC agreements with Brazil, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Paragraph 10

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

Uruguay has participated in the TCDC programming on aquaculture and maritime activities, as well as the meetings of the Directors General for Technical Cooperation convened by SELA.

Paragraph 11

After Ghana. add the following sentence:

The Egyptian Government reported its difficulties in securing counterpart financial support required to implement the projects emanating from the TCDC programming exercise it had organized with 15 other developing countries which resulted in agreements to exchange 234 experts and 726 trainees.

Paragraph 13, line 1

For 700 read 1500

Paragraph 13, line 15

Add the following text at the end of the paragraph:

The Government of Egypt reported that it financed from its technical cooperation fund for Africa, the services of 821 experts provided to other African countries in the fields of medicine, engineering, education and agriculture; accommodated and financed the placement of a total of 522 African trainees in Egyptian institutions; and trained 75 Africans in the field of nursing, maritime transport and rice production. Senegal reported sending two legal experts to Tunisia, Mali and Djibouti for a six-month period to assist the Governments of those countries in formulating a policy aimed at placing deprived youngsters in educational facilities at the cost of $60,000. Indonesia stated that it had received nine experts from the Republic of Korea, Egypt and Turkey while sending its experts in the field of agriculture to the Gambia at the behest of that Government. The Government of Guatemala reported continuous cooperation with Venezuela since 1988 on energy, mining, public finance and engineering, mainly in 20 training courses with a duration of 1-2 weeks each in nine Guatemalan institutions. Uruguay reported cooperation with Argentina in meat production, commerce and transfer of technology; with Chile on biogas; with Panama in aquaculture; with Peru in dairy products, and with China in food and fisheries.

Paragraph 14, line 2

For 230 read 752.

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INFORMATION FROM SOME GOVERNMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

Corrigendum

Paragraph 14, tenth line

For 37 read 374

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STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMING EXERCISES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

Pursuant to decision 6/5 of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, the present report describes the progress made in the 1989-1990 biennium in strengthening and improving intergovernmental TCDC programming exercises.

It reviews the objectives and methods deployed in organizing past exercises and describes some of the lessons learned in the process. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 19 to 24, which contain the Administrator's preliminary conclusions pending the outcome of a two-phased in-depth evaluation of the exercises currently being undertaken by the Special Unit for TCDC.

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 6/5 the High-level Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 42/179 of 11 December 1987 on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries, and stressed the need for these exercises to facilitate the integration of TCDC into the mainstream of technical cooperation activities, specially those of the United Nations system and particularly of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. Pending a two-phased in-depth evaluation of the intergovernmental TCDC programming exercises which the Special Unit for TCDC is currently undertaking, this interim report, prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments of developing countries which have participated in such exercises, analyses and appraises past experience and offers some preliminary conclusions for future direction of these exercises.

I. PROMOTION OF TCDC MODALITIES

3. Intergovernmental TCDC programming exercises are intended to promote the use of TCDC modalities between interested developing countries in urgent problem-solving activities and in mutual exchange of know-how among those countries. An intergovernmental programming exercise consists of a preparatory period of at least eight months culminating in a meeting held in the host country at which the participating developing countries finalize agreements on the TCDC activities that are planned to be implemented through exchanges of experts, consultants, training, etc. It thus promotes TCDC interaction among institutions and organizations of the developing countries in both the public and private sectors.

4. The preparatory work on these exercises consists of five phases. Phase 1 entails discussions with a host country leading to the identification in that country of a coordinating organization and the setting up of a national coordinating committee consisting of representatives of interested ministries, departments and other governmental or private sector organizations. Local representatives of the relevant specialized agencies and the office of the resident representative participate in the work of the committee. The national coordinating committee identifies other developing countries to be invited to participate in the exercise, and develops a capacities/needs questionnaire to be completed by all participating institutions of the participating countries. UNDP and the relevant specialized agencies assist in finalizing the questionnaires. A duration of one and a half months is estimated for phase 1. Phase 2, with a planned duration of two months, involves the completion of capacities/needs questionnaire by the participating organizations in the host country and in all invited countries. Field personnel of the specialized agencies concerned assist in the completion of the questionnaires.

5. In phase 3, the questionnaires are forwarded through the respective resident representatives of UNDP to the national coordinating organization of the host country where a consolidated compendium of capacities/needs is prepared. The Special Unit reproduces the compendium and forwards copies to the participating Governments through the UNDP offices. The Governments distribute the compendium to all those institutions which have completed the questionnaires and the process of matching their needs with capacities offered by other countries, and vice versa, begins. Consultant missions sometimes assist in the matching process. Again, field personnel of the specialized agencies, and of UNDP, assist in the capacities/needs matching process.

6. At the end of phase 3, a provisional list of TCDC opportunities for capacities/needs matching should emerge. In phase 4, the provisional list is jointly reviewed by the host organization and the Special Unit for TCDC and the United Nations specialized agency concerned (in cases of unisectoral exercises). This takes about two to three days, normally one month from the end of phase 3. The bilateral consultations meeting, phase 5, is attended by two representatives (one from the respective government coordinating authority, the other from the relevant sector) from each participating country to obtain agreement on the technical cooperation proposals emerging from the exercise. The participants are assisted by representatives of the competent specialized agencies and by UNDP staff in their bilateral consultations. The meeting has a duration of five working days.

7. The implementation of the agreements concluded in the fifth phase remains the responsibility of the parties involved. Financial support for the intergovernmental programming exercise is provided by the Special Unit from the SPR allocation for TCDC. These financial resources have been provided from the umbrella project INT/83/904 Promotion of Action-oriented TCDC Activities, which, having developed piecemeal, had a total earmarking of $7,354,875 from 1983 until 1990. The amount budgeted for intergovernmental programming exercises totalled approximately $1.65 million for 20 exercises. This type of exercise has represented an important mechanism available to the Special Unit for TCDC to promote the use of TCDC modalities among developing countries.

II. EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF PROGRAMMING EXERCISES

8. The intergovernmental programming exercises held so far have numbered 20 since the inception of the use of this mechanism in 1983 in China. As reported to the High-level Committee at its previous session, a total of 12 had been undertaken until the end of 1988. In the biennium 1989-1990 an additional eight were held. The rate of implementation started at four exercises for 1983-1986 and increased to eight for each succeeding biennium 1987-1988 and 1989-1990. Summary data on each of the exercises held is provided in the annex below.

9. The result of the experience by region shows that Latin America is making the greatest use of the mechanism with 10 exercises held, 4 during the

1989-1990 biennium, while Asia had 5 exercises, with 2 during the 1989-1990 biennium. The Arab States had 3 exercises, but none have been held during the 1989-1990 biennium, and Africa had the first 2 exercises during this biennium. The exercises held can be divided into two distinct groups: one related to rounds of programming of a multisectoral character carried out by national focal points for TCDC of each country where the negotiations are associated with other intergovernmental meetings. The other group concentrates on the exercise itself. There have been a total of five exercises of the first type, all in Latin America in conjunction with annual meetings of SELA (Sistema Económico Latino Americano).

10. The programming exercises of the second type number 15, of which 6 have been carried out in the last biennium in Mexico, Argentina, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana, Indonesia and India. The countries which hosted programming exercises before the last biennium include Pakistan, Egypt, Central American subregion (Nicaragua), Peru, Tunisia, Turkey and China. The duration of the preparatory period for the programming exercises ranges from 9 to 18 months. The contribution of the Special Unit for TCDC for each of these exercises has ranged from $85,000 to $120,000. These costs are related mostly to the hiring of national consultants, and travel and hotel expenses of other than the host country participants to the bilateral consultation meetings. All other costs are normally borne by the host countries.

11. The purpose of the programming exercises is to bring together interested parties to discuss specific development problems that would lend themselves to the use of TCDC modalities for implementation. In doing so, the exercises required the identification of capacities in one country that would be matched to needs in another. The matching was done during the preparatory period with the aim of finalizing agreements between the two parties at the final bilateral consultations meeting. The number of agreements reached total 2,510. In the biennium 1989-1990 there were 979 agreements. These agreements are meant to be implemented on a TCDC basis.

III. APPRAISAL OF THE EXPERIENCE

12. The result of the programming exercises are agreements between suppliers and users of services which lend themselves to a TCDC modality. The follow-up actions have been/are considered to be the exclusive responsibility of the contracting parties. Information on the follow-up of all the agreements has been difficult to obtain as Governments have not always informed UNDP of the follow-up actions. A questionnaire sent to all Governments which had participated in past exercises, requesting <u>inter alia</u> this type of information, attracted 16 replies, few among them providing meaningful or comprehensive details. In many instances, there is information that the implementation of the agreement has become overdue and after some time perhaps may no longer remain feasible. Various reasons for this are being cited: lack of administrative support from the national focal points, lack of the required financial support and, in some cases, insufficiently clear definition of the needs in a manner that would lend itself for further action.

13. Experience has also shown that government requests for programming exercises have arisen more from their own capacity and desire to supply services to other countries. The result has been programming approaches of a multisectoral nature. The multisectoral approach makes it difficult to define needs explicitly. Therefore, needs have been expressed in terms of narrow activities or alternatively as supply of specific inputs in terms of an expert, consultant or a training opportunity. As such, these activities have not, in most instances, been expressed in terms of major projects even though the catalytic short-term exchange of expertise may eventually assist in the design of a major project.

14. Experience thus far has revealed that these exercises prove more fruitful when they are organized on the basis of needs to which available capacities are to be matched, and also if they focus on one sector or subsector. An example of this orientation is the programming exercise for the United Republic of Tanzania, which was more driven by the needs of the host country. In the 1989-1990 biennium, three of the six programming exercises were sectoral in character: the exercise among Latin American countries held in Mexico dealing with aquaculture; a similar one held in Argentina with focus on maritime activities; and the one in India with concentration on cooperatives. This focused approach has a greater opportunity to lead to the implementation of major projects.

15. There are two examples of this more narrow specialized sector approach which are indicative of the improvements of the programme exercises. Pakistan held a programming exercise on science and industry in September 1988 which focused on professional and private organizations. It was the first sectoral exercise held. It was limited to industrial and scientific organizations located in the city of Karachi, the largest industrial centre of the country. There were 148 agreements made, 138 agreements between Pakistan and 29 other developing countries and 10 between the invited countries. Agreements were more easily negotiated because participants spoke familiar technical language leading to better prospects for implementation. In Latin America, a unisectoral exercise was held on aquaculture in Mexico in June 1989. There were 21 countries that prepared 400 proposals which finished with 110 agreements: 14 training courses responding to 200 requests for learning, 52 interchanges of experts and 11 major projects. The Latin American Development Bank has indicated its disposition to finance a package of these projects with an approximately $1.5 million contribution.

16. However, the preparatory period for the programming exercise for the sectoral approach is more extensive in character in that it entails the preparation of capacities/needs compendia not only from the host country but also from all participating countries. The matching process is more complex. The duration of the preparatory period remains more or less the same. The start of the implementation of potential projects emerging from these exercises generally takes from 3 to 12 months. A regional or interregional project may take two years not counting from external sources the time required to search for financial support if needed. The overall implementation rate of the agreements reached at the programming exercises is

not fully known, but a rough estimate ranges from less than 5 per cent to 50 per cent among the different participating countries.

17. The programming exercises associated with other intergovernmental meetings essentially represent five meetings held in Latin America with SELA. These exercises have generated on the average approximately 50 agreements, compared to an average of approximately 170, ranging from a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 324 agreements in exercises solely dedicated to TCDC. However, the meetings of SELA have had an important effect at the ministerial and administrative level on fostering the utilization of TCDC modalities as an instrument of development and foreign policy. TCDC modalities have become significant instruments in the process of concertation, negotiation and management in the solution of problems in priority areas. Some of the important decisions taken by SELA at its highest political level are on strengthening priority areas and national TCDC focal points; defining TCDC opportunities to promote training, exchange of expertise and joint projects; identifying and resolving obstacles to the use of TCDC modalities, formulation of information networks on TCDC and coordination of organizations on specific TCDC programming. These types of programming exercises enhance the opportunities for mainstreaming TCDC in the overall context of countries' development activities. They also make use of, and strengthen, the Information Referral System of the Special Unit for TCDC, INRES-South, in a more purposeful way. This experience suggests that similar initiatives might prove useful in other regions as a prerequisite for the fostering of more focused sectoral programming exercises.

18. As stated in paragraph 2, the Special Unit for TCDC is undertaking a two-phased in-depth evaluation of the use of the intergovernmental programming exercises which is particularly oriented towards improving on the time necessary to prepare for the bilateral consultations meetings, while more importantly establishing in a more organized manner, the effectiveness of the mechanism in using TCDC modalities in the implementation of development projects of priority importance to developing countries. The first phase will evaluate programming exercises carried out before the end of 1990, while the second phase will cover those undertaken in 1991. This evaluation is also expected to refine the observations made in order to bring these programming activities closer to those supported by the United Nations development system and particularly UNDP in order appropriately to mainstream TCDC as called for by the High-level Committee.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

19. TCDC programming exercises have played a role in promoting the use of TCDC modalities for the implementation of development projects. However, the full extent of follow-up activities is not known. Exercises, undertaken in conjunction with regional meetings of national focal points have also provided the forum for considering the possibilities for mainstreaming TCDC in national and regional development programmes. There is a growing need for external

financial resources to facilitate timely implementation of the technical cooperation activities agreed to in these exercises.

20. It is advisable also to draw attention to the need for Governments to establish through the national TCDC focal points appropriate systems of follow-up on agreements reached at programming exercises to be complemented by UNDP's stepped-up capacity to monitor, report and evaluate the effectiveness of the effort.

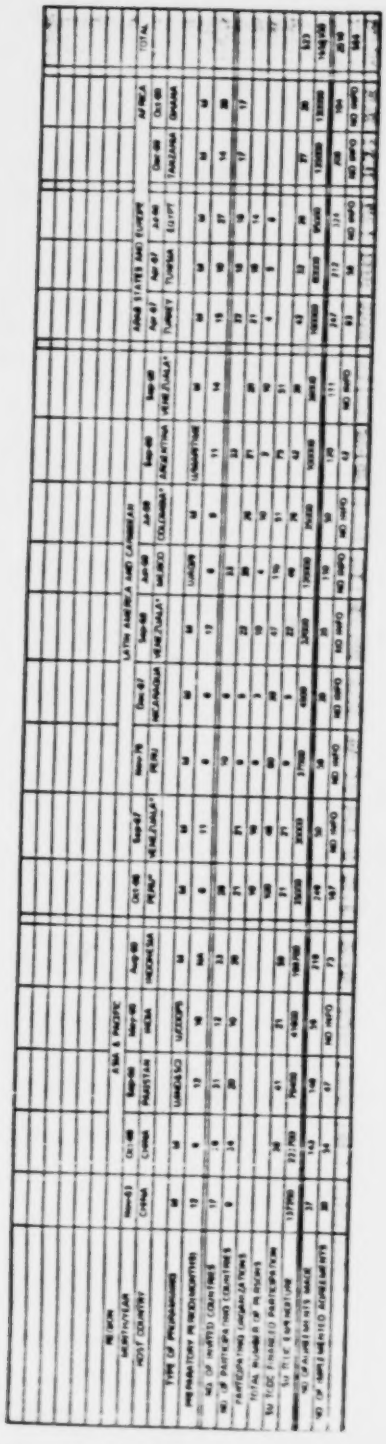
21. The national focal points for TCDC need to be strengthened, wherever required, so that they can better discharge the responsibilities of integrating TCDC modalities in the country's overall development plans and thus permit the mainstreaming of these activities in the United Nations development system and more particularly with the UNDP programming practices. For this purpose, each region may need to develop periodic meetings of focal points associated with other intergovernmental meetings, an example of which is SELA in Latin America.

22. From available reactions, it is evident that there is government interest to continue the use of this mechanism at approximately the same level as has been carried out in the past but with a preference for reorienting them to sectoral programming exercises.

23. The results of the in-depth evaluation currently in progress will be used, together with these general conclusions, as a means to formulate a future strategy for programming exercises. In the evaluation, the duration of the preparatory period for a programming exercise will be examined, as well as the time required for the follow-up actions resulting from agreements reached, with a view to seeing whether both could be reasonably shortened.

Annex

SUMMARY DATA



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Seventh session
New York, 28-31 May 1991

ROLE OF WOMEN IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TCDC)

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted in response to decision 6/6 of the High-level Committee, in which the Administrator was asked to report to the Committee at its seventh session on actions taken or planned to be implemented by the organizations of the United Nations development system to ensure full access and participation of women in development through TCDC and on the activities they propose to undertake to develop and improve guidelines enhancing the role of women in TCDC. The report contains an overview of emerging trends, with indications of varying degrees of progress achieved by the organizations in promoting the role of women in development in their respective TCDC activities as well as the problems encountered. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 35 and 36, which contain the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations.

ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
DTCD	United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
NRSE	new and renewable sources of energy
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations development system
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WID	women in development
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

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INTRODUCTION

1. By its decision 6/6 of September 1989, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries requested the Administrator to report on the action taken or planned to be implemented by the organizations of the United Nations development system to ensure full access and participation of women in activities of TCDC. The Committee requested the organizations of the UNDS and UNDP to develop and improve guidelines for this and stressed the need to integrate women in the identification, design and implementation of projects adopted as a result of TCDC exercises.

2. The present report is based on information provided by the organizations of the UNDS in response to a questionnaire. Of the 36 organizations and bodies, 16 responded, (see annex I below). This response rate is lower than that for the previous report submitted to the Committee at its sixth session (TCDC/6/7), when 22 out of 35 organizations responded. Of the 16 organizations that responded, 8 (IMO, ILO, ESCAP, UNFPA, INSTRAW, IFAD, DTCD, UNDP) made some attempt to address the descriptive questions raised in the questionnaire; and 5 (DTCD, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNIDO, WMO) provided quantitative information on the statistical parts of the questionnaire.

3. Some of the organizations (UNFPA, ILO, INSTRAW) which had provided quantitative information about women's share of TCDC financial resources for the previous report expressed their inability to provide statistical information for the present report, either on the ground that the organization has no accurate way to measure (UNFPA) or that the organization's "integrated approach" (ILO) makes it unnecessary and difficult to provide a quantitative breakdown of figures or amounts.

4. Indeed, several organizations indicated that either statistical information is unavailable (FAO) or that the "integrationist approach" towards the role of women in TCDC constrains disaggregation of data and separate monitoring and accounting procedures. For example, DTCD maintained that in keeping with its established policy, it does not make a specific distinction between men and women in its support to TCDC activities. UNCHS asserted that no specific TCDC activities related to women's issues have been built into UNCHS-executed projects since WID issues are integrated in field projects and TCDC activities are demand driven and respond to client's requirements. WFP noted that its project documentation does not reveal that there has been specific recourse to the TCDC modality in support of the Programme's WID activities, although WFP independently pursues similar approaches and objectives outside the specific TCDC modality.

5. Thus, this report attempts to synthesize the varying levels of responses from the organizations and such quantitative data as has been submitted by some of them. It consists of six sections. Sections I, II and III contain detailed analyses of the responses and follow the reporting format sent to the organizations. Descriptive statements by the organizations as well as their

specific responses to the questionnaire have been used. Conclusions and recommendations appear in the last two sections of the report. Statistical information is presented in two separate tables (annex II).

I. SUPPORT TO PROMOTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL TCDC ACTIVITIES

6. This section presents responses from the organizations on the activities and projects undertaken in support of WID through TCDC. Organizations were requested to describe issues which incorporated women's needs in the identification, programming, and review of TCDC policies and programmes and identify benefits to women as a result of these actions and obstacles in integrating WID issues in TCDC activities. All those who responded expressed their strong support for WID and TCDC and stated that some activities have been undertaken or are being planned to implement this commitment. Organizations reported undertaking several types of activities to promote WID through TCDC. Some conducted workshops to sensitize policy makers and planners; others organized meetings of interested parties to discuss mutually beneficial WID activities and several awarded subcontracts to women consultants from developing countries (ILO, IFAD, UNFPA, ESCAP); some developed information on WID needs and capacities applicable to TCDC (UNFPA, ESCAP). Three organizations reported matching potential donors with developing countries needs/capacities for financing WID activities (ILO, ESCAP, IFAD), and one indicated undertaking programming missions, studies and surveys to identify TCDC possibilities in WID activities (ESCAP).

7. Reporting on activities and projects varied, ranging from discussion of issues (UNCTAD, WFC) to description of general WID-related activities (WHO, IFAD) to listing of specific WID through TCDC projects (UNFPA, ESCAP, DTCD, UNDP).

8. UNCTAD noted that though its current programme of activities did not lend itself to have a specific WID and TCDC focus, its future activities, particularly the follow-up of the least developed countries (LDC) conference, would provide opportunities to address concerns of WID through TCDC. WFC reported that in its policy analysis work it identified types of projects, (i.e. human resources development and institution building) and areas of activities (i.e. agro-industries and food production) where women's participation should be actively promoted.

9. WFP reported that it made extensive use of developing country capacities in such areas as involving women (a) as expert consultants in design or evaluation of WFP assisted projects; (b) as national counterpart project managers; and (c) as subject-matter specialists delivering technical assistance in project activities. It cited a number of illustrative projects, e.g. resettlement scheme in Ghana, land reclamation scheme in Egypt, soil conservation projects in Kenya and the Dominican Republic, off-farm agro-industries projects in Colombia, forest nurseries in the Syrian Arab Republic, agricultural extension in Senegal and the Niger, and land improvement techniques in China.

10. Several organizations reported on their WID activities without specifying their TCDC components. UNCHS listed two regional training workshops (Latin America and English-speaking African countries) and two publications on WID during the reporting period. IMO reported the organization of national and regional workshops on WID issues and recruiting missions to identify women technical experts for inclusion in IMO's roster.

11. WHO described numerous WID activities (though without details of their TCDC components) covering a wide range of programme areas, such as health situation and trend assessment, human reproduction, primary health care, maternal health and safe motherhood, adolescent health, mental health, community water supply and sanitation, environmental health, chemical safety, food safety, immunization, malaria control, tropical diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, cancer, blindness, cardiovascular disease and health and biomedical information programme.

12. ILO indicated that explicit care was being taken to promote national expertise on a TCDC basis in its WID activities and advisory services. In the exchange of information in the programme on rural women and workers it also fosters TCDC.

13. UNIDO reported the difficulties of singling out technical cooperation projects and other WID activities through ECDC/TCDC modalities because of the organization's subsectoral approach to programming. Nevertheless it identified two projects (Shea butter production in Guinea and an SADCC regional African entrepreneurship training programme for women) that promoted WID through TCDC. It provided statistical information of WID's share of funds based on these two projects.

14. INSTRAW described several activities that used TCDC modalities; five national training workshops (India, Senegal, Ecuador, Malaysia, the Sudan) on indicators, statistics and data on women; two national training workshops (Thailand and Nigeria) on women, water supply and sanitation; and two national training seminars (Egypt and the United Republic of Tanzania) on women and new and renewable sources of energy. It also stated having organized a regional training seminar on women and NRSE for Arabic-speaking African countries. INSTRAW reported on its multi-media training packages on women, water supply and sanitation and women and NRSE; the latter was translated into Arabic. It also described having prepared a work plan on South-South cooperation, and participated in an ECA project on women in the informal sector.

15. FAO reported no current project or programme specially geared to TCDC activities in WID but it described several activities in the last two years that involved TCDC exchanges. In Asia, FAO organized a regional expert consultation on database for women in agriculture and rural development, and two regional workshops on the planning and implementation of projects assisting women farmers in ASEAN countries, and on development of survey methodologies on women, agricultural development and population. It also provided information on its technical support to three UNIFEM meetings (New York, Manila, Bangkok) on women in agriculture, food cycle technologies, and

food security. In Latin America, FAO reported supporting the participation of women experts in the 1990 activities of various technical cooperation networks and on the basis of that experience concluded that the potential for promoting WID through TCDC in the region was very promising.

16. IFAD described a number of WID activities (though without information on their TCDC components): workshops, research, project identification missions, technical cooperation projects, training, and advisory services. It reported having organized a regional training seminar on financial services in Cyprus, a round table on financial and technical services for rural poor households in Ethiopia, and two workshops on rural women in agricultural development in Papua New Guinea. IFAD had included national women as part of project identification teams in Turkey and Egypt. Several research and operational projects were briefly described by IFAD though their TCDC aspects were not clear. IFAD, however, noted that there was considerable scope and potential for strengthening TCDC within its WID programme.

17. ESCAP reported on several WID activities: workshops, study tours, audiovisual documentation and publications, though their TCDC components were unclear. It indicated organizing two subregional workshops (Thailand, Vanuatu) on the management of women's information centers; three subregional workshops (Thailand, Nepal, Vanuatu) for women executives on export marketing; one national workshop on legal literacy (Bangladesh); two expert group meetings on integration of WID in development planning and technological development; one consultative and one regional training seminar on women's contribution to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and a meeting on audiovisual documentation. It also provided information on three study tours on community-based settlements, community-based financing, and social science research, and on its publications, including a Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women, Women's Information Network for Asia (WINAP) newsletter, report of the workshop on women's information centers, and translation into three national languages of training manuals on the transfer of technology.

18. ECLAC reported on its WID activities, consisting of workshops, research, training and advisory services, without highlighting TCDC components. Among these were a regional expert group meeting on cultural aspects of women's participation in the decade of the 1990s, and another to review gender dimensions in ECLAC's development proposals; technical assistance and advisory services to the newly created Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM) in Chile; technical assistance to Cuba for a programme of activities on information systems; and advisory services to Bolivia for its national commission's activities related to women.

19. DTCD reported two WID-related meetings without identifying TCDC components: a regional meeting on participation of women in public management (Malaysia) and an interregional seminar (Yugoslavia) on women's participation in development administration. It reported having organized a training workshop for heads of personnel from WID units in developing countries on microcomputer application for population and development planning, and

utilizing TCDC modalities to develop a WID training programme in Paraguay. Several of its technical cooperation projects in the water sector (Niger, Mauritania) repeatedly used women consultants from developing countries.

20. UNFPA stated that the Fund continued its policy of incorporating TCDC components and women's concerns into all programme structures and integrating them into the programming process of all UNFPA-assisted projects. It reported having updated WID guidelines, and publishing a book on gender analysis for project design, and a training manual and a global directory of women's organizations implementing population strategies. UNFPA also reported training national officials and programme staff in the regions of Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. For the reporting period, UNFPA listed the largest number of projects, 61 in total, that promoted the TCDC objectives of self-reliance, mutual support and voluntary sharing of knowledge among women. The projects included 26 national in Africa, 5 in Arab States and Europe, 10 in Asia and the Pacific, 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 9 regional and 2 interregional projects. A number of key issues were addressed through the Fund's programming and project support, e.g. improvement in national censuses to record women's actual economic contributions, gender sensitive research and planning in the national population units, exchange of knowledge and life experiences among women in population activities, and strengthening of women's health groups and networks that operated from the developing countries.

21. UNDP reported routinely incorporating WID issues in all project formulation, evaluation, and implementation in its UNSO-supported projects, most of which also included some form of TCDC such as study tours, fellowships, and use of consultants from the region. It provided a list of illustrative UNSO projects in which the role of women in TCDC was incorporated at the formulation stage (improved cooking stove project in the Sudan, community forestry and conservation projects in Ethiopia) was at the evaluation stage (agro-forestry project in the Niger, Lake Faquibine system Mali) resulting in revision of the project, or at the stage of implementation (improved cooking stove projects in the Gambia and Burkina Faso, restocking gum Arabic project in the Sudan). The regional and interregional conferences organized by UNSO also ensured substantial participation of women. UNDP also reported on an approved United Nations Capital Development Fund project that subcontracted Grameen Bank in Bangladesh to screen, train, appraise and monitor candidate micro-enterprise credit programmes from least developed countries which are expected to have substantial participation of women. Responding to paragraph 4 of decision 6/6 of the Committee, UNDP reported facilitating and encouraging the full participation of women in TCDC programming exercises it had supported during the period under review. Out of the 59 TCDC projects and activities emerging from the TCDC programming exercise in cooperatives hosted by the International Cooperative Alliance, 8 responded to women's concerns. Out of 219 projects emerging from the Indonesian TCDC multisectoral programming exercise, approximately 44 projects ensured the participation of women. Among the eight TCDC programming exercises planned to be conducted in 1991 and 1992, emphasis is being placed at the planning stage on maximizing the participation of women in the TCDC projects expected to emerge from them.

22. Some organizations (UNFPA, IFAD, ESCAP, UNDP, IMO) identified obstacles in integrating WID in TCDC activities. However, UNDP and ESCAP described benefits to women recipients as a result of integration of women in promotional and operational TCDC activities.

23. Continued attitudinal barriers and lack of representation at decision-making levels was identified by most organizations as a major obstacle to integrating WID in TCDC. Lack of knowledge of women's concerns, inadequate information on the usefulness and applicability of TCDC in WID activities (UNFPA, IFAD, ESCAP) and absence of continuity in national women's organizations (IFAD, ESCAP) were also found to be major obstacles. ESCAP identified weakness of TCDC focal points in the countries as an obstacle. UNDP identified lack of rosters of women experts as an impediment. WMO pointed out that in its area of work a major problem was the absence of an adequate number of women entering or staying in the profession because of unusual working hours involved, i.e. shift work of 12 hours and night work.

24. The two organizations describing benefits to women as a result of integrating the role of women in TCDC referred to different types of benefits. ESCAP listed several benefits: sharing of experiences, acquiring of knowledge, skills and new ideas, and mobilization of technical assistance. UNDP noted direct project benefits such as employment, training, access to services, etc. UNDP found that the TCDC modality facilitated WID activities particularly in implementation. ESCAP, on the other hand, noted that the TCDC modality impeded WID activities, particularly in the stages of planning, designing and programming; implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and funding of local costs.

II. MEASURES TAKEN (OR PLANNED) TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION'S SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN THE INTEGRATION OF WID IN TCDC, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES

25. This section reports on the organizations' responses to specific measures taken or planned to strengthen the integration of WID through TCDC. The organizations were also requested to report on the preparation or improvement of WID guidelines, budgetary share in medium-term plans concerning the role of women in TCDC, specific measures undertaken to implement paragraphs 322 to 377 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and subprogramme 5.4 of the System-wide Medium-term Plan for Women and Development for 1990-1995, relating to technical cooperation, training and advisory services, staff training to facilitate integration of women in programming using the TCDC modality; interaction between the TCDC focal points and WID coordinators; reactions to the use of the TCDC modality in WID activities; actions undertaken to overcome the institutional and attitudinal barriers to widespread application of the TCDC modality in WID activities, and innovative strategies and approaches used to generate additional support for the role of women in TCDC. Eight organizations and bodies (ILO, FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, ESCAP, INSTRAW, DTCD, UNDP) responded to some of the specific questions.

26. Improvements in policy and programme guidelines on the role of women in TCDC activities were reported by UNFPA. IMO indicated its strategy for the integration of women in TCDC; its programme is to maximize their access to technical training and integration at all levels of the maritime sector. UNDP, DTCD, WHO, FAO, UNIDO and INSTRAW noted that special attention to women's role in TCDC is given wherever feasible for integration into their mainstream development activities.

27. None of the organizations could provide data on the percentage of WID's share in the medium-term plan budget for TCDC activities. DTCD, however, stated that in the past approximately 10 per cent of its regular programme budget had been earmarked and spent to promote TCDC activities and the same could be said about WID activities.

28. Organizations were also requested to provide statistical information on the level of support for the integration of WID through TCDC by number and amount. Three (ECLAC, ESCAP, UNIDO) responded (see annex II, table 1). From the limited data provided, it appears that most of the WID activities were dependent on external donors or trust funds. ECLAC and UNIDO indicated some regular budget support for WID through TCDC. ESCAP noted its inability to break down WID data from its regular programme.

29. Most organizations appeared to be unable to report on the specific measures undertaken to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and subprogramme 5.4 of the System-wide Medium-term Plan for WID for 1990-1995. However, ILO, UNIDO and INSTRAW noted that they prepared their own medium-term plans taking into consideration the general mandate of the Forward-looking Strategies and System-wide Medium-term Plan.

30. FAO, DTCD, UNDP and UNFPA reported staff training programmes on WID without specifying whether the TCDC modality was applied. FAO put priority on gender analysis training in its 1990-1991 programme and reported that 332 FAO staff had participated in such training during 1990.

31. In many of the organizations the WID and TCDC focal points were reported to be placed in the same department, which facilitated their interaction and coordination, with the indication that the interaction was on an informal basis. Some, notably DTCD and ESCAP, expressed the wish to formalize the interaction. DTCD reported that as of 1991, the TCDC focal point had been made a member of the regular meeting of the restructured DTCD task force on women to increase interaction between the two focal points. Several organizations reported the existence of an interdepartmental or departmental committee on WID. FAO stated that it had established an interdivisional working group, and DTCD a departmental task force on WID; also WHO reported that it had a steering committee on women, health and development.

32. Favourable reactions to the use of the TCDC modality in WID activities were reported by all organizations. UNFPA, DTCD, ESCAP and IFAD found that the TCDC modality upgraded women's skills and training through consultations, allowed voluntary sharing of women's experience and expertise, and enhanced

the role of qualified women consultants and experts. DTCD noted promotion of national and collective self-reliance.

33. Several organizations reported adopting measures to overcome barriers to widespread application of the TCDC modality in WID; DTCD referred to publicity about WID and TCDC activities through its regular publications, especially DTCD news. ILO noted study tours and exchange of national expertise and experience, especially setting up credit schemes amongst several countries within the framework of regional projects. INSTRAW reported producing public information materials using TCDC principles.

34. Two organizations (INSTRAW, ILO) reported on innovative strategies used to generate additional support for WID through TCDC. INSTRAW noted its multi-media modular training packages and ILO mentioned its regional workshop in Africa on SADCC countries.

III. CONCLUSIONS

35. From the analysis of the responses by the organizations of the the United Nations development system the following conclusions emerge:

(a) Although there is an increasing awareness amongst the organizations on the need to integrate WID in TCDC, many have yet to take comprehensive action to identify obstacles to the role of women in TCDC and to adopt specific steps to overcome obstacles.

(b) Some organizations have undertaken specific actions and projects integrating WID in TCDC.

(c) A growing number of organizations have formulated policy, programme and project guidelines to integrate women in all their activities.

(d) Available qualitative and quantitative data is limited and this affects the monitoring of progress of the integation of WID in TCDC. The limited information available indicates that women's participation in development in general and TCDC in particular has considerable potential to be developed.

(e) The existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms need to be strengthened to measure the extent of women's participation in TCDC.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

36. On the basis of the conclusions derived from the reports of the organizations, the Administrator makes the following recommendations for the Committee's consideration:

(a) Organizations which have not done so should undertake a comprehensive review and evaluation of the progress of the role of women in TCDC within their own programmes. The review should generate necessary quantitative database for future monitoring and evaluation exercises.

(b) Organizations should continue to institute procedures and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate implementation of WID guidelines in policy, programme and project development and attempt to produce disaggregated statistical data to measure the progress of the role of women in TCDC.

(c) Organizations should share their own experiences in promoting WID through TCDC by exchanging guidelines, gender specific statistics, and innovative methodologies bilaterally and through annual meetings of TCDC focal points of the United Nations development system.

(d) Governments of developing countries may wish to consider the inclusion of relevant non-governmental organizations for linkages at the institutional level for intercountry TCDC activities so as to increase the involvement of women in developmental activities, workshops and other assignments.

Annex I

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM TO WHICH QUESTIONNAIRE WAS SENT

		Responded			Responded
1.	United Nations/DTCD	"	19.	IMO	"
2.	UNDP	"	20.	ICAO	
3.	UNIFEM	"	21.	WHO	"
4.	UNICEF		22.	ITC	
5.	UNITAR		23.	IMF	
6.	UNFPA	"	24.	WORLD BANK	
7.	ECE		25.	IAEA	
8.	ESCAP	"	26.	INSTRAW	"
9.	ECLAC	"	27.	ITU	
10.	ECA		28.	UNCHS	"
11.	ESCWA		29.	UNEP	"
12.	FAO	"	30.	UNHCR	"
13.	WFC	"	31.	UNIDO	
14.	IFAD	"	32.	UPU	"
15.	UNCTAD	"	33.	WFP	
16.	GATT		34.	WIPO	"
17.	ILO	"	35.	WMO	
18.	UNESCO		36.	WTO	"

Annex II

TABLES

Table 1

Level of support for TCDC by number of activities and amounts, 1 January 1989-31 December 1990

(In thousands of United States dollars)

I. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. Strengthening of countries' capacities for TCDC

Agency	Type of activities	Regular programme		UNDP Country IPF		UNDP Regional IPF		UNDP INT/GLO IPF		Development banks		Funds-in-Trust & other external donors		Recipient countries' own trust funds		Total current reporting period		Total preceding report period	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
ECLAC	Institution Strengthening											1	55			1	55		
	Networking																		
ECLAC ESCAP	Info system											2 2	89 120			2 2	89 120		
	Strengthening TCDC focal points																		
	TCDC training																		
	Other																		
	Sub-total											5	264			5	264		

B. Specific activities to promote, identify or formulate TCDC operational activities

ESCAP	Meetings, seminars & workshops											8	565.7						
	Feasibility studies and surveys																		

Table 1 (continued)

Agency	Type of activities	Regular programme		UNDP: Country IPF		UNDP: Regional IPF		UNDP: INT/GLO IPF		Development banks		Funds-in-Trust & other external donors		Recipient countries' own trust funds		Total current reporting period		Total preceding report period	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
ESCAP UNIDO	Training											2	96.0						
UNIDO	Other		80										58.45	6					
	Subtotals		80									10	720.15	6					
	Total		80									15	984.15	6		5	264		
II. CATALYTIC SUPPORT PROVIDED TO OPERATIONAL TCDC ACTIVITIES																			
ECLAC	Experts	1	130.50										33.156						
UNIDO UNIDO	Equipment		30		8	44						66	3.63						
ECLAC	Fellowship				8	44						66	3.63						
UNIDO	Contracts												25.300						
ESCAP	Other											3	17						
	Total	1	210		8	44						69	438.456						
	Operational																		
	GRAND TOTAL	1	350.50		8	44						84	1 422.606	6		5	264		

Table 2

Statistical summary

Utilization of the capacities of developing countries in programmes and projects of the United Nations development system
1 January 1989-31 December 1990

(In thousands of United States dollars)

EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS

	Total provided		Recruited from developing countries			
	W/M	Amount	W/M	Amount	Percentage of total amount	Percentage of total amount
ECLAC	4 146	-	744	-	-	-
UNIDO	62	310	13	83	27	19
WMO	1 135	6 500	755	3 500	66.5	53.8

FELLOWSHIPS

	Total provided		Placed in developing countries			
	W/M	Amount	W/M	Amount	Percentage of total amount	Percentage of total amount
ECLAC	1 218	1 111	444	405	36	36
WMO	2 901	4 500	1 320	1 700	45.5	37.7

EQUIPMENT

	Total provided	Purchased from developing countries		
	Amount	Amount	Percentage of total amount	Percentage of total amount
UNIDO	72	35	42	
WMO	10 158 000	2 532 000	24.9	

SUBCONTRACTS

	Total provided		Awarded to institutions/firms of developing countries			
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Percentage of total amount	Percentage of total amount
UNIDO	3	150	1	25.3	18	

UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

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OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Seventh session
New York, 28-31 May 1991

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE TCDC FOCAL POINTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Note by the Administrator

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision 5/6 of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), the Administrator makes available as an annex to the present document the report of the Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, which was convened at Geneva on 5 and 6 June 1990 in response to paragraph 2 of the same decision.

2. The meeting was attended by TCDC focal points of 13 organizations (see annex, appendix III, summary assessment, para. 2.1). Among other things it examined the questions of financing to promote, catalyse and support TCDC activities; the organizations' initiatives to provide more orientation and training of staff, particularly field personnel, on TCDC and the programming of TCDC activities; and information in support of TCDC. The meeting also discussed some of the impediments still facing wider adoption of the TCDC programming modality - lack of information, procedural difficulties, budgetary constraints and the need for continued "aggressive promotion" of TCDC. The meeting also reviewed and introduced modifications to the reporting format for the organizations' submissions at the seventh session of the High-level Committee.

3. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 12 (a) through (f) of the annexed report, which contain the meeting's recommendations.

Annex

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF TCDC FOCAL POINTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, 5 AND 6 JUNE 1990

A. Organization, duration and venue of meetings

1. The Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System was convened by the Administrator of UNDP and was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 5 and 6 June 1990. The meeting was chaired by Mr. S. M. S. Chadha, Director, Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries. Mr. Edward C. White, Principal Information Officer, INRES-South, Special Unit for TCDC, served as Secretary of the meeting. A working group of the meeting, chaired by Mr. Shahid Husain, Deputy Director, Special Unit for TCDC, refined the organizations' reporting format for their submissions to the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its seventh session.

2. During his introductory remarks Mr. Chadha stressed the consultative nature of the meeting, and the fact that the participants would have the opportunity to be briefed on the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of the group of intergovernmental experts on TCDC which had taken place in New York from 9 to 20 April 1990 (see document DP/1990/77). He then introduced the draft agenda for the meeting (see appendix II), which was adopted without modification.

B. Participation

3. The following organizations of the United Nations development system (UNDS) were represented at the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Labour Organisation (ILO); International Trade Commission (ITC); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC); United Nations Department for Technical Cooperation for Development (UNDTCD); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A full list of participants is contained in appendix I of this report.

C. Agenda and documentation

4. Documentation for the meeting included the following:

(a) Agenda (appendix II);

(b) Final report of the Second Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, 25-26 February 1988;

(c) Report of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries (DP/1990/77, thirty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council);

(d) Draft revised format for the report to the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its seventh session, covering the period 1 January 1989-31 December 1990 (as modified by the focal points meeting, see below, appendix III).

D. Conclusions

5. During its deliberations on agenda items 1 through 3 the meeting underscored the point that, notwithstanding the primary responsibility of the Governments concerned to arrange the financing of TCDC projects, some funds were necessary for promoting, catalysing and supporting TCDC activities. Some speakers alluded to the initiatives undertaken by their organizations to find such funds from a variety of sources, while others indicated that their work had been hampered by the general shortage of technical cooperation funds, which had led to a reduction in funds available for TCDC.

6. A number of participants described activities in which their organizations had been involved during the past two years to provide more orientation and training of staff in their own organizations, particularly field personnel, on TCDC and the programming of TCDC activities, as well as to produce a growing number of publications about TCDC. As a result of these initiatives, it was felt that there was now increased awareness of what TCDC was, of the differences between TCDC and utilization of developing countries' capacities under traditional technical assistance arrangements, and of how certain types of project activities having the latter orientation could move an agency forward towards increased TCDC as defined by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

7. It was generally felt that TCDC was still a largely underutilized potential for development cooperation. There was a frank discussion of some of the impediments still facing wider adoption of the TCDC programming modality, including lack of information, procedural difficulties, budgetary constraints, etc., and the need for continued "aggressive promotion" of TCDC. Despite what was currently being accomplished, often with minimal resources allocated, the role of TCDC focal points within organizations was felt by some speakers to need reinforcement, just as did that of national TCDC focal points, in order for them to be fully effective.

8. A number of speakers mentioned their increasingly close operational links with the Special Unit. Several indicated that their organizations had already participated with the Special Unit in TCDC programming activities and felt

that that was an especially valuable form of collaboration. One agency mentioned having already reached agreement to house the INRES-South database, others expressed interest either in doing so or in entering a more active exchange of database information with INRES-South.

9. During the discussions, the Special Unit was able to clarify a number of points regarding the financing of TCDC projects. Concerning the difficulty of some development banks in reconciling the financing of TCDC activities with their normal competitive bidding procedures, Mr. Chadha mentioned that UNDP was engaging in talks with some of the banks on that very issue. It was also pointed out that there was no statutory limit on the amount of its national IPF that any country may use, if it wished, for the execution of its own projects employing the TCDC modality. At the same time, by decision 81/31 the UNDP Governing Council had enabled the countries to use up to $10 million or 7.5 per cent, whichever was smaller, of their IPFs in TCDC activities benefiting other developing countries. Moreover, the Special Unit would be able to consider providing SPR funding support to a limited number of projects in which developing country institutions encouraged by organizations of the UNDS would carry out operational research leading to specific problem-solving methods or to the identification of areas of collaboration among developing countries in, or between, different sectors.

10. Under agenda item 4, "Any other matters", a working group of the meeting reviewed and introduced modifications to the draft revised format for the organizations' submissions to the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its seventh session. Specifically, it was agreed that the period covered by the statistical reports would be aligned with the two calendar years of the biennium, i.e. 1 January 1989 to 31 December 1990. Organizations would submit the narrative portions of their reports as soon as they were ready before the deadline. The statistical reports, which relied on figures not available before the end of the year (or later) would be provided as close to the deadline of 31 January 1991 as possible. Another important modification agreed upon was the inclusion of an optional item in which organizations could report any particular success stories or innovative TCDC projects carried out during the preceding biennium. While those might not always be included in the report to the High-level Committee, depending on space limitations, it was agreed that that would provide the Special Unit with highly useful information which could serve for reference purposes. The new format, as modified, is contained in annex III of this report. It was agreed that the practice of adding the organizations' submissions to the Administrator's report to the High-level Committee would be maintained.

11. Also under "Any other matters" a briefing on the current status and a live demonstration of the INRES-South database were provided on the second day of the meeting, and there was a discussion of the prospects for simplification of some of the procedures followed in project INT/83/904.

E. Recommendations

12. The meeting made the following recommendations:

(a) The role of TCDC focal points within organizations should be strengthened. The UNDP Administrator would be advised to draw the attention of the executive heads of organizations to the following decisions of the High-level Committee adopted at its sixth session, which requested that the TCDC focal points be closely associated with all phases of the decision-making process by, inter alia, ensuring their active participation in the relevant organs and committees of the respective organizations.

(b) The catalytic role of outside funding of TCDC projects should not be interpreted so strictly as to imply only marginal support to TCDC activities.

(c) There should be increased collaboration with and participation in TCDC programming activities by organizations of the UNDS, particularly single focus (single capacity) workshops.

(d) Organizations of the UNDS should further explore possibilities for "triangular" TCDC arrangements, in which two (or more) organizations jointly support a national, subregional or regional TCDC activity, as has already been tried successfully by two organizations.

(e) Concerning the report of the April 1990 intergovernmental meeting of experts on TCDC, the participants agreed, following thoughtful consideration of its contents, that the meeting should take note of the report and, even in advance of the UNDP Administrator's official transmittal of the document to the executive heads of organizations, the TCDC focal points would share the report with concerned officers in their organizations.

(f) Regarding the two-day meeting of developing countries with agencies on TCDC requested at the fifth and sixth sessions of the High-level Committee, it was agreed that the meeting should have a practical focus, dealing in particular with such substantive issues as the constraints to TCDC programming, feasible actions to get around the constraints, ways of institutionalizing the solutions found, etc. In view of the difficulties of working out an appropriate timing, it was agreed that the Special Unit would explore and propose one of three options: (i) a meeting during the 1990 General Assembly session; (ii) a meeting in March/April 1991 either in New York, Geneva or a developing country (that was highly desirable, but might pose a funding problem); or (iii) a meeting just before the seventh session of the High-level Committee.

Appendix I

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Appendix II

Third Meeting of TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System

Geneva, 5-6 June 1990

AGENDA

1. Review of progress of implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of TCDC Focal Points of Organizations of the UNDS, held in New York 25-26 February 1988.

2. Implications for UNDS of decisions of the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC, and General Assembly resolutions 44/222 and 44/223.

3. Review of recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the UNDS concerning TCDC, convened in New York, 9-20 April 1990, and of the Governing Council's decision on those recommendations.

4. Any other matters.

   - INRES-South: briefing and demonstration
   - Procedures for INT/83/904.

Appendix III

REPORTING FORMAT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SPECIAL UNIT FOR TCDC

Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

1 January 1989-31 December 1990

REPORTING FORMAT

May 1990 (rev. 1)

INTRODUCTION

1. The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its fifth session (18-22 May 1987) recommended that each of the organizations of the United Nations system undertake every two years a review of its activities in relation to implementation of tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC. The High-level Committee has requested that progress reports be submitted by the organizations to the Committee at its biannual sessions.

2. The reporting format for this purpose has undergone a number of changes reflecting comments expressed by various agencies/organizations of the United Nations development system during the second and third meetings of the TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system, held in New York and Geneva in 1988 and 1989, respectively.

3. The present format is designed to simplify the reporting requirements. Attention of the organizations is drawn to paragraphs 4 and 5 of decision 6/2 of the High-level Committee, and paragraphs 5, 10 and 12 of decision 6/3. a/

4. Organizations are urged to keep in view the letter and spirit of the relevant decisions of the High-level Committee, paying conspicuous attention to the quantitative data, and to the critical but brief analysis and assessment which the currently revised format is intended to elicit. It is

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a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39), annex I.

proposed to structure the report into two sections: the first is to deal with a summary narrative of what has actually transpired during the period under review, to be supplemented by corresponding statistical information, which is the subject of the second section. The material submitted by the organizations will be kept intact in the report.

5. Taking into consideration the time requirements for processing the consolidated report, organizations are requested to submit their reports no later than 31 January 1991.

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

This section, which should not exceed two pages, must contain information in the way in which the reporting organization wants it to appear in the consolidated UNDS report to the High-level Committee without abridgement or editing.*

Using the major thematic issues which have been under constant review before the High-level Committee assessment can conveniently be done under the following four subheadings:

I. Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

1.1 Promotional activities are those that are intended to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to engage in TCDC activities of an operational nature. Partial or full cost of these activities may be borne by the United Nations system.

1.2 Operational activities are development activities involving the deliberate and voluntary sharing or exchange of technical resources, skills and capabilities between two or more developing countries. They are initiated, organized, managed and financed primarily by the participating developing countries themselves. The United Nations system's support to these activities can only be supplementary or catalytic in nature.

1.3 The most important feature here would be to focus on the activities which have taken place during the reporting period and the kind of catalytic contributions made by the organizations towards their attainment and the constraints being encountered. Since the statistical portion related to this section, and to those below, will be the subject of the second section, there will be no need to go into detail here on the monetary value or the output other than to indicate the total volume of resources disbursed for the appropriate category of activities during the reporting period.

II. Measures taken (or planned) to strengthen the organizations' supportive role in promoting TCDC

2.1 Of special significance to be mentioned here are: the organizations' financial bases for TCDC; strengthening of the role of the organizations' focal points for TCDC and their sectoral counterparts at the country level; any legislative enactment or administrative and/or organizational improvements

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* It should be noted that existing reporting guidelines limit the number of pages of any report to the HLC (or to any United Nations governing body) to 24, excluding statistical annexes. It is important therefore that organizations' individual narrative account reports not exceed two pages (single spaced).

designed to enhance the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the organizations' support to TCDC at the country, intercountry, regional and global levels. Please describe any measures taken for briefing and training personnel in TCDC and any publications, newsletters, etc. planned or issued in respect of TCDC.

III. Use of developing countries' capacities

3.1 Implementation of the organizations' mandates for the procurement of goods and services for technical cooperation through recruitment of experts, placement of fellows, award of contracts, and procurement of equipment and supplies warrants similar attention. Of course, the obstacles that impede progress in this area should also be addressed. The data should be analytically compared with that of the preceding reporting period to show any net increase or decrease, and the direction of the general thrust of the organizations in utilizing such capacities. Specific measures planned or those being implemented by the organization to overcome such constraints as encountered in the selection of training facilities, recruitment of experts, award of contracts, etc. should be represented.

IV. Innovative approaches to TCDC

4.1 As an annex to their reports agencies may wish to include information on one or two examples of innovative or new approaches to TCDC activities.